

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method of processing a network device operating system operation, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
  
receiving the network device operating system operation and associated data within an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;  
  
parsing the XML document to identify the network device operating system operation;  
  
selecting one of several network device operating system components that can process the identified network device operating system operation;  
  
preparing the associated data for use by the selected one of several network device operating system components; and  
  
providing the identified network device operating system operation and the prepared data in a callback to the selected one of the several network device operating system components.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
  
receiving responsive data from the selected one of the several network device operating system components;  
  
creating a responsive XML document that contains the responsive data in XML format;  
  
and  
  
sending the responsive XML document to a network management application.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the XML document is received within a transport protocol message that conforms to one of several transport protocols, and further comprising the step of extracting the XML document from the transport protocol message.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
at the selected one of the several network device operating system components,  
processing the identified network device operating system operation in  
preparation for invoking a function that can perform one or more tasks associated with the operation; and  
invoking the function defined by the network device operating system component that can perform the one or more tasks associated with the operation.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the XML document includes data associated with the network device operating system operation, and wherein the step of processing the identified network device operating system operation in preparation for invoking the function comprises:  
validating the data associated with the network device operating system operation; and  
mapping the data to one or more data structures that are associated with the function.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about  
the several network device operation system components that are supported; and  
providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more  
of the several network device operation system components that are supported.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about one or more of several objects that are supported by the several components; and providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the objects that are supported.
8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 7, further comprising the steps of: receiving, in the XML document, ~~receiving~~ a query from a network management application about one or more of several methods that are supported by the objects; and providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the methods that are supported.
9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 7, further comprising the steps of: receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about one or more of several attributes that are supported by the methods; and providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the attributes that are supported.
10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of: receiving, in the XML document, an invocation by a network management application of one or more of several methods that are implemented by one or more objects of the several components; and invoking the one or more methods through a callback to one or more of the components.
11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for processing a network operating system operation for a network device, comprising:

a plurality of network device operating system components comprising instructions for performing network device operating system operations;

XML infrastructure logic comprising instructions for receiving the network operating system operation and associated data within an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document; and

programmatic agent infrastructure logic comprising instructions for parsing the XML document to identify the network device operating system operation, selecting one of several network device operating system components that can process the identified network device operating system operation, preparing the associated data for use by the selected one of several network device operating system components, and providing the identified network device operating system operation and the prepared data in a callback to the selected one of the several network device operating system components.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 11, wherein each of the network device operating system components comprises:  
  
component XML logic that implements one or more of the callbacks to which the identified network device operating system operation and the prepared data are provided by the programmatic agent infrastructure logic;  
  
component API logic that provides an application programming interface for one or more functions of the network device operating system component.
13. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 12, wherein the component XML logic further comprises instructions for data validation of the data associated with the identified network device operating system operation and

for mapping the data to one or more data structures that are associated with the one or more functions.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~storing~~<sup>carrying</sup> one or more sequences of instructions for processing a network device operating system operation, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving the network device operating system operation and associated data within an

Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

parsing the XML document to identify the network device operating system operation;

selecting one of several network device operating system components that can process the identified network device operating system operation;

preparing the associated data for use by the selected one of several network device operating system components; and

providing the identified network device operating system operation and the prepared data in a callback to the selected one of the several network device operating system components.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 14, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving responsive data from the selected one of the several network device operating system components;

creating a responsive XML document that contains the responsive data in XML format;

and

sending the responsive XML document to a network management application.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein the XML document is received within a transport protocol message that conforms to one of several transport protocols, and further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the step of extracting the XML document from the transport protocol message.
17. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 14, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- at the selected one of the several network device operating system components,
- processing the identified network device operating system operation in
- preparation for invoking a function that can perform one or more tasks associated with the operation; and
- invoking the function defined by the network device operating system component that can perform the one or more tasks associated with the operation.
18. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein the XML document includes data associated with the network device operating system operation, and wherein the step of processing the identified network device operating system operation in preparation for invoking the function comprises: validating the data associated with the network device operating system operation; and mapping the data to one or more data structures that are associated with the function.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 14, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about the several network device operation system components that are supported; and providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the several network device operation system components that are supported.
20. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 14, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about one or more of several objects that are supported by the several components; and providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the objects that are supported.
21. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 20, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- receiving, in the XML document, ~~receiving~~ a query from a network management application about one or more of several methods that are supported by the objects; and providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the methods that are supported.

22. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 20, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about one or more of several attributes that are supported by the methods; and
- providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the attributes that are supported.
23. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 14, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- receiving, in the XML document, an invocation by a network management application of one or more of several methods that are implemented by one or more objects of the several components; and
- invoking the one or more methods through a callback to one or more of the components.
24. (Original) An apparatus for processing a network device operating system operation, comprising:
- means for receiving the network device operating system operation and associated data within an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;
- means for parsing the XML document to identify the network device operating system operation;
- means for selecting one of several network device operating system components that can process the identified network device operating system operation;

means for preparing the associated data for use by the selected one of several network device operating system components; and

means for providing the identified network device operating system operation and the prepared data in a callback to the selected one of the several network device operating system components.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24, further comprising:

means for receiving responsive data from the selected one of the several network device operating system components;

means for creating a responsive XML document that contains the responsive data in XML format; and

means for sending the responsive XML document to a network management application.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]]24, wherein the XML document is received within a transport protocol message that conforms to one of several transport protocols, and further comprising means for extracting the XML document from the transport protocol message.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]]24, further comprising:

means for processing the identified network device operating system operation in preparation for invoking a function that can perform one or more tasks associated with the operation; and

means for invoking the function defined by the network device operating system component that can perform the one or more tasks associated with the operation.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]]24, wherein the XML document includes data associated with the network device operating system operation, and wherein

the means for processing the identified network device operating system operation in preparation for invoking the function comprises:

means for validating the data associated with the network device operating system operation; and

means for mapping the data to one or more data structures that are associated with the function.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]]24, further comprising:

means for receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about the several network device operation system components that are supported; and

means for providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the several network device operation system components that are supported.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]]24, further comprising:

means for receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about one or more of several objects that are supported by the several components; and

means for providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the objects that are supported.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[7]]30, further comprising the steps of:

means for receiving, in the XML document, ~~receiving~~ a query from a network management application about one or more of several methods that are supported by the objects; and

means for providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the methods that are supported.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[7]]30, further comprising the steps of:

means for receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about one or more of several attributes that are supported by the methods; and

means for providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the attributes that are supported.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[1]]24, further comprising:

means for receiving, in the XML document, an invocation by a network management application of one or more of several methods that are implemented by one or more objects of the several components; and

means for invoking the one or more methods through a callback to one or more of the components.

34. (Original) An apparatus for processing a network device operating system operation, comprising:

a network interface that is coupled to a data network for receiving one or more packet flows therefrom;

a processor; and

one or more stored sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving the network device operating system operation and associated data within an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document;

parsing the XML document to identify the network device operating system operation;

selecting one of several network device operating system components that can process the identified network device operating system operation;

preparing the associated data for use by the selected one of several network device operating system components; and

providing the identified network device operating system operation and the prepared data in a callback to the selected one of the several network device operating system components.

35. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 34, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:
- receiving responsive data from the selected one of the several network device operating system components;
- creating a responsive XML document that contains the responsive data in XML format;
- and
- sending the responsive XML document to a network management application.
36. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the XML document is received within a transport protocol message that conforms to one of several transport protocols, and further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the step of extracting the XML document from the transport protocol message.
37. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 34, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

at the selected one of the several network device operating system components,  
processing the identified network device operating system operation in  
preparation for invoking a function that can perform one or more tasks associated  
with the operation; and  
invoking the function defined by the network device operating system component that can  
perform the one or more tasks associated with the operation.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 34, wherein the XML document includes data associated with the network device operating system operation, and wherein the step of processing the identified network device operating system operation in preparation for invoking the function comprises:  
validating the data associated with the network device operating system operation; and  
mapping the data to one or more data structures that are associated with the function.
39. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 34, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:  
receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about  
the several network device operation system components that are supported; and  
providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more  
of the several network device operation system components that are supported.
40. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 34, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:  
receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about  
one or more of several objects that are supported by the several components; and

providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the objects that are supported.

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 40, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving, in the XML document, receiving a query from a network management application about one or more of several methods that are supported by the objects; and

providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the methods that are supported.

42. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 40, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving, in the XML document, a query from a network management application about one or more of several attributes that are supported by the methods; and  
providing a response to the network management application that identifies one or more of the attributes that are supported.

43. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 34, further comprising instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving, in the XML document, an invocation by a network management application of one or more of several methods that are implemented by one or more objects of the several components; and  
invoking the one or more methods through a callback to one or more of the components.